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Project Number 5278

Mr. James X. Shafer
Remedial Project Manager
Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
10 Industrial Highway, Mail Stop 82
Lester, Pennsylvania 19113

Reference: CLEAN Contract No. N62472-90-D-1298
Contract Task Order 218

Subject: RAB Meeting Summary

Dear Mr. Shafer:

Enclosed is a summary of the September 17, 1997 RAB meeting.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at 978-658-7899.

Very truly yours,

Betsy Horne
Community Relations Specialist

BH:ib

Enclosure

c: R. Boucher, NORTHDIV (w/o enc.)
B. Wheeler/D. Sanders, NETC (w/enc.)
D. McKenna/G. Bullard, B&RE - Wilmington (w/enc.)
G. Glenn, B&RE - Philadelphia (w/enc.)
M. Price, B&RE - Philadelphia (w/o enc.)
File 5278 - 3.2 (w/o enc.) /5278 - 9.4 (w/enc.)

**NETC RAB HEARS PRESENTATIONS ON
U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AUTHORITIES
AND ON HOW SHELLFISH BED CLASSIFICATIONS ARE MADE**

On Wednesday, September 17, 1997, the NETC Newport Installation Restoration Program Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met at the NETC Officers' Club.

Committee reports were heard. Brad Wheeler presented the committees action list, derived from committee deliberations at the last two meetings. The list identifies each task adopted, identifies the staff person or RAB member responsible for overseeing the task, and estimates a completion date. As part of its goal to better understand the IR process, the Project Committee is sponsoring a bus tour of several sites on Tuesday morning, September 30. They will also meet an hour before the next RAB meeting for a briefing by a representative of one of the federal or state agencies that has a role in the IR program.

The Planning Committee is leading an effort to identify factors in addition to the relative risk ranking that determines site priority for cleanup funds. This exercise will continue over the next two meetings. The Navy summarized the current budget process at NORTHDIV.

The RAB decided to postpone attending a DARE-sponsored event the following weekend for lack of NETC staff availability and appropriate material to hand out. The Public Information Committee will compile a list of public events that can be attended to enhance RAB outreach.

Tim Prior, a biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, summarized the agency's role in the IR program: providing technical assistance to EPA, and producing or overseeing development of a Natural Resource Damage Assessment. The assessment determines the level of harm a hazardous waste site has created to the local ecological community. Those responsible for causing the damage are assessed penalties or are required to conduct mitigating activities.

Joe Migliore, from the RIDEM Office of Water Resources, oversees a staff that tests shellfishing areas for bacteria, surveys the coastline for pollution sources, and produces the annual Shellfish Closure Areas map. They determine how impacts such as storm water bypasses impact receiving areas. He also discussed the August-issued Water Quality regulations, which include water quality goals for all waterways. His office can assign a partial use category to an area affected by combined sewer overflows, or marinas and mooring fields. Some areas are conditionally approval or are closed because of FDA requirements, such as a nearby sewage treatment facility. The areas designated as permanently closed to shellfishing could be reclassified. RIDEM could enter into an agreement with the City of Newport. If all other conditions for opening the beds are in place, the shellfish beds could be opened if Newport adopted a RIDEM-approved comprehensive plan to close them immediately in case of an upset at the treatment plant.